

What is claimed is:

1. An optical recording media cartridge for protecting an optical recording media, comprising:

a case that accommodates the optical recording media and that has an opening from which the optical recording media is exposed;

a shutter that is attached to said case and that is movable between a first position at which said shutter covers the opening and a second position;

a shutter lock mechanism that locks said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position; and

a shutter release mechanism that releases said shutter locked by said shutter lock mechanism by utilizing a magnetic force exerted thereon.

2. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1,

wherein said shutter lock mechanism and said shutter release mechanism are mounted inside said case,

wherein said optical recording media cartridge substantially completely covers said optical recording media, said shutter lock mechanism and said shutter release mechanism when said shutter is positioned at the first position.

3. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the optical recording media is exposed when said shutter is positioned at the second position.

4. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said shutter lock mechanism includes a lock member attached to said shutter, said lock member locking said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position.

5. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 4,

wherein said lock member has a hook that engages with a recess formed on said case while said shutter is positioned at the first position,

wherein said shutter is locked by engagement of the hook and the recess.

6. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 5,

wherein said shutter release mechanism includes a magnet attached to said lock member,

wherein the engagement of the hook of said lock member

and the recess of said case is released by the magnetic force exerted on the magnet attached to said lock member.

7. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 6, wherein the magnetic force exerted on the magnet is an attractive force.

8. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the attractive force acts on the magnet when an external magnet approaches the magnet from outside the optical recording media cartridge.

9. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the attractive force acts on the magnet when an external magnetic material approaches the magnet from outside the optical recording media cartridge.

10. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 6, wherein the magnetic force exerted on the magnet is a repulsive force.

11. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the repulsive force acts on the magnet when an external magnet approaches the magnet from outside the optical recording media cartridge.

12. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 5,

wherein said shutter release mechanism includes a magnetic material attached to said lock member,

wherein the engagement of the hook of said lock member and the recess of said case is released by the magnetic force exerted on the magnetic material attached to said lock member.

13. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 12, wherein the magnetic force exerted on the magnetic material is an attractive force.

14. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 13, wherein the attractive force acts on the magnetic material when an external magnet approaches the magnetic material from outside the optical recording media cartridge.

15. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said shutter lock mechanism includes a lock member attached to said case, said lock member locking said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position.

16. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 15,

wherein said lock member has a hook that engages with a recess formed on said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position,

wherein said shutter is locked by engagement of the hook and the recess.

17. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 16,

wherein said shutter release mechanism includes a magnet attached to said lock member,

wherein the engagement of the hook of said lock member and the recess of said shutter is released by the magnetic force exerted on the magnet attached to said lock member.

18. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 16,

wherein said shutter release mechanism includes a magnetic material attached to said lock member,

wherein the engagement of the hook of said lock member and the recess of said shutter is released by the magnetic force exerted on the magnetic material attached to said lock member.

19. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic force exerted on said shutter release mechanism is an attractive force.

20. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic force exerted on said shutter release mechanism is a repulsive force.

21. The optical recording media cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said optical recording media includes an optical disc.

22. An optical recording media drive for recording/reproducing information to/from an optical recording media accommodated in a cartridge,

said cartridge comprising:

a case that accommodates the optical recording media and that has an opening from which the optical recording media is exposed;

a shutter that is attached to said case and that is movable between a first position at which said shutter covers the opening and a second position;

a shutter lock mechanism that locks said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position; and

a shutter release mechanism that releases said shutter

locked by said shutter lock mechanism by utilizing a magnetic force exerted thereon,

said optical recording media drive comprising:

a body;

a magnet that exerts said magnetic force when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive; and

a shutter open member that moves said shutter of said cartridge from the first position to the second position when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive.

23. The optical recording media drive according to claim 22,

wherein said shutter open member includes an arm member rotatably attached to said body, the arm member having an end portion which engages with a notch formed on said cartridge,

wherein the end portion of the arm member moves when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive so as to move said shutter of said cartridge from the first position to the second position,

wherein said magnet is attached to the end portion of the arm member.

24. The optical recording media drive according to claim 22, wherein said body has a slot to which said cartridge is attached.

25. An optical recording media drive for recording/reproducing information to/from an optical recording media accommodated in a cartridge,

said cartridge comprising:

a case that accommodates the optical recording media and that has an opening from which the optical recording media is exposed;

a shutter that is attached to said case and that is movable between a first position at which said shutter covers the opening and a second position;

a shutter lock mechanism that locks said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position; and

a shutter release mechanism that releases said shutter locked by said shutter lock mechanism by utilizing a magnetic force exerted thereon,

said optical recording media drive comprising:

a body;

a magnetic material that exerts said magnetic force when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive; and

a shutter open member that moves said shutter of said



cartridge from the first position to the second position when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive.

26. A system having an optical recording media cartridge and an optical recording media drive for recording/reproducing information to/from an optical recording media accommodated in the optical recording media cartridge,

said optical recording media cartridge comprising:

a case that accommodates the optical recording media and that has an opening from which the optical recording media is exposed;

a shutter that is attached to said case and that is movable between a first position at which said shutter covers the opening and a second position;

a shutter lock mechanism that locks said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position; and

a shutter release mechanism that releases said shutter locked by said shutter lock mechanism by utilizing a magnetic force exerted thereon,

said optical recording media drive comprising:

a body;

a magnet that exerts said magnetic force when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media

drive; and

a shutter open member that moves said shutter of said optical recording media cartridge from the first position to the second position when said optical recording media cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive.

27. A system having an optical recording media cartridge and an optical recording media drive for recording/reproducing information to/from an optical recording media accommodated in the optical recording media cartridge,

said optical recording media cartridge comprising:

a case that accommodates the optical recording media and that has an opening from which the optical recording media is exposed;

a shutter that is attached to said case and that is movable between a first position at which said shutter covers the opening and a second position;

a shutter lock mechanism that locks said shutter while said shutter is positioned at the first position; and

a shutter release mechanism that releases said shutter locked by said shutter lock mechanism by utilizing a magnetic force exerted thereon,

said optical recording media drive comprising:

a body;

a magnetic material that exerts said magnetic force when said cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive; and

a shutter open member that moves said shutter of said optical recording media cartridge from the first position to the second position when said optical recording media cartridge is attached to said optical recording media drive.